

International Agribusiness Center

Weekly Country Report, December 7-11, 2020

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USDA/Global Agricultural Information Network Reports

India Extends Compliance Timeline for Genetically Modified-Free Certificate for Imported Food Products – [link](#)

On December 3, 2020, the Government of India's Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) extended the compliance date on the requirement of a genetically-modified (GM)-free certificate for imported food products until March 1, 2021.

EU-China Agreement on Geographical Indications Will Enter into Force in Early 2021 – [link](#)

On December 3, 2020, the EU published the Agreement between the EU and China on geographical indications (GIs) in its Official Journal. This Agreement will extend protection in China to 275 products that are produced in the EU. Products include feta cheese, asiago cheese, kalamata olives, marsala wine and more. Post expects the Agreement to enter into force on February 1, 2021.

Pakistan Pulses Virtual Trade Mission Generates Sales – [link](#)

FAS Islamabad, in collaboration with the USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council (USADPLC), organized the first-ever U.S. Virtual Trade Mission (VTM) for Pakistani buyers of U.S. pulses on November 3 – 4, 2020. The objective of the VTM was to provide buyers information about the high quality and good supply of U.S. pulses with the aim of spurring demand for U.S. pulses from Pakistani buyers. Twenty Pakistani buyers and seventeen U.S. suppliers participated in the event. Pakistani buyers from Hyderabad and Faisalabad, who traditionally source pulses from local brokers, participated in the VTM for the first time and established direct relationships with U.S. suppliers. To date, the VTM has generated over \$445,000 in sales of U.S. chickpeas from four Pakistani buyers. FAS Islamabad projects approximately \$15 million in sales over the course of the next 12 months, as Pakistan heads into its major pulse buying season.

Korea Exporter Guide – [link](#)

The United States exported \$8.9 billion in agricultural and related products to South Korea in 2019, making it our fifth largest agricultural export market. The United States is the leading exporter of agricultural products to Korea with a 25 percent market share. While overall U.S. agricultural exports to Korea will likely decline slightly in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, exports of consumer-oriented products should continue to grow. Ongoing socio-economic shifts coupled with elevated consumer attention to quality of diet in Korea will generate new opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products for years to come.

COVID-19 in India - Port Situation Update – [link](#)

Mexico Proposes Ban on GE Corn and Glyphosate – [link](#)

On December 9, a draft decree was released on Mexico's National Commission for Regulatory Improvement (CONAMER) website that calls for a phase-out of use of both glyphosate and genetically modified (GE) corn for human consumption in Mexico. The proposed decree states that use of the herbicide glyphosate will be phased



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out over the next four years, although glyphosate will not be used in any government-sponsored program during that transition period. The draft also includes an article that seemingly requires the revocation of existing and future permits for both the cultivation of GE corn and the use of GE corn for human consumption. The use of GE corn in human consumption would be phased out no later than January 31, 2024.

Food Processing Magazine

Clock Ticking on Brexit Trade Deal – [link](#)

The British food industry is preparing for unknown tariffs, trade restrictions and general chaos as the deadline for a Brexit deal approaches. The United Kingdom and the European Union have been conducting trade as though the UK is still an EU member, even though it voted in 2016 to pull out in a “Brexit.” That withdrawal became effective in January, but the two sides agreed to maintain trade on a no-tariff, no-restriction basis until the end of this year while negotiations continue. Those negotiations are foundering on several points, including fishing rights and dispute settlement procedures. As a result, food importers and exporters in the UK are nervously eyeing the calendar without knowing exactly how their businesses will be affected.

Freight Forwarders

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Port congestion and increased freight rates are among several factors that are causing disruptions in the global supply chain, and they will continue into the new year. Additional time is needed to unload cargo from air imports increasing wait times. Ocean imports are seeing congestion at all West Coast and East Coast ports in unloading each container. Both air and ocean exports are facing staff shortages, congestion and high volume of cargo that’s causing a fluctuation in freight rates.

BDG International

India is facing a shortage of containers as exports are rising and imports are decreasing. Thus, waiting times for a container are anywhere from 14-20 days and the rates have nearly doubled from pre-COVID rates. This is expected to continue for two to three months.

Disclaimer: This list is by no means complete, for more information please refer to the links above.

Country reports were started in March 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

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